Commission on Connecticut's Future

9:00 AM LOB, ROOM 1C

Minutes

Committee Chair: Catherine Smith

Members Present: Richard McCombs, Todd Berch, Henry Lowendorf, Steve Paulone, John Harrity, Joe Brennan (representing John Rathgebber), Jacqueline Johnson, Andrew Zehner(representing Jeffrey Seemann), Karl Prewo, Rep. Gail Lavielle, and Kathy Marioni (representing Commissioner Sharon Palmer)

- I. Introduction of members
- II. "Connecticut's Workforce Trends:" Patrick Flaherty, Economist, CT Department of Labor
 - CT making progress in brining the unemployment rate down, but it still needs work
 - Jobs peaked in February 2010; Connecticut is still mending
 - Change in employment Feb. 2010-Oct. 2013: local government, finance & insurance, and durable goods manufacturing declined; expansion in health care and social assistance, accommodation and food service, and administrative and support services
 - Connecticut employment 2013: health care and social assistance is the largest sector,
 followed by retail trade, educational services, and manufacturing
 - Employment sector size varies by region
 - Manufacturing industries with greatest employment: transportation equipment (includes aerospace), fabricated metal, machinery manufacturing, computer and electronics, and chemical (includes pharmaceuticals)
 - Manufacturing exports from the state have increased (about doubled) over the last 10
 years; largest export recipients are Canada, France, Germany, Mexico; exports to China
 have grown 10 fold in the last ten years
 - One reason for decline in manufacturing employment is tremendous improvement in productivity; CT has one of the most productive workforces

- Population trends: aging population; number of people 55-64 more than number of people in young worker cohort, 25-34
- Net population in CT is growing
- Significant domestic out-migration is basically replaced by people coming to CT from foreign countries
- Half of current workforce is age 45+; 2/3 of manufacturing workforce is 45+
- 2010-2010 manufacturing projections show both growth and decline across industries
- CT occupational projections estimate growth of low-skill, low-wage jobs and highskilled, highly-paid jobs; not good news for individuals with less than a college degree; data suggests that those in less than HS category need to be moved up to mid-skill job level
- III. "Department of Economic and Community Development's Strategic Plan:" Catherine Smith,
 Commissioner
 - Quick overview of presentation, Commissioner Smith will give the full presentation at next meeting
 - Summary of framework for economic strategy: Build on established strengths and potential future growth
 - Retain and grow existing base of jobs
 - o Foster innovation and new business development
 - o Grow and enrich our talent pool
 - o Build vibrant neighborhoods and communities
 - o Build a brand for the state that drives economic growth
 - Motivate and engage employees and partners
 - Key strengths to build upon: insurance/finance, healthcare/life sciences, advanced manufacturing, and tourism. Emerging: digital media, green tech, and IT innovation
 - Rep. Lavielle: let's look into transportation's economic impact both when it does work,
 and when it doesn't
 - Karl Prewo: CASE is willing to bring together group of manufacturers, host Commission
- IV. Next meeting: 9am Thursday, January 16th